

She expressed her desire to submit to any operation likely to afford relief, and she was the more anxious as the right eye was certainly sympathetically affected, as manifested by intolerance to light and lachrymation. Rather than extirpate the eyeball, a practice that my patient had heard of, and which is certainly very objectionable if it can be avoided, or rather than reduce it by the removal of the anterior portion, an operation that is very serviceable in checking certain morbid actions, and which should when applicable be preferred to the above, I determined to try the experiment of extracting the opaque lens, and evacuating some of the vitreous humour. I effected this without wounding the iris. The vitreous humour was apparently quite normal.

"The acute pain ceased, and there was less uneasiness during the healing process, which was quickly effected, than is often experienced in successful operations for the extraction of the cataract. It is just five weeks since I operated. There has been no recurrence of pain; there is yet conjunctival vascularity; there is no other abnormal appearance about the eye, except that the pupil is irregular, a part of it being adherent to the corneal wound, but there is no prolapse. The right eye has lost the sympathetic irritation.

"I desire not to set more value on a single example like the present than it is worth, nor do I attempt to generalize from a single instance; but even as a unit, as an isolated fact, it has its value. It will encourage me to investigate the matter further, and I doubt not that with this publicity the subject will receive attention from others. I shall not attempt to explain the rationale of the operation, nor do I venture to speculate on any advantages that may be gained by this means when adopted in the earlier stage of the disease. My object is to record an experimental success in the removal, by a simple plan, of a distressing symptom that will not at all times succumb to any ordinary treatment, except that which mutilates or disfigures. I can affirm, from personal experience, that Græfe's iridectomy does fail in these instances.

"The tendency to internal hemorrhage, when a diseased eyeball is incised, is well known; and I adopted the generally successful preventive of applying a pledget of cotton wool and a bandage over the eye, and retaining it two or three days. No bleeding occurred."

28. *Cancerous Ulceration close to the Inner Canthus, treated with Sulphate of Zinc Paste.* Dr. WILLIAM MACKENZIE, of Glasgow, relates (*Ophthalmic Hospital Reports*, April, 1859), the following very interesting and instructive case. A patient, aged apparently about fifty-five, and who attributed the spread, if not the origin, of his complaint, to the depression of mind arising from pecuniary loss, applied to me on the 1st of February, 1859, on account of a cancerous ulcer on the side of the nose, close to the inner angle of his left eye. It was fully the size of a fourpenny piece, of irregular shape, covered with a scab, and surrounded by hard and elevated edges. The papillæ and carunculæ lacrymales, and the palpebral conjunctiva were inflamed, and the disease seemed to be extending in the direction of these structures.

I felt no doubt that were the ulcer left to itself it would gradually spread, and prove rebellious to all applications of a soothing description. Having repeatedly found, also, that extirpation of such a disease by the knife, even when care was taken to cut into the sound integuments, although followed by a firm cicatrice and an apparent cure, was succeeded after a time by a renewal of the scirrhous hardness and intractable ulceration, I determined in this case to try as an escharotic the sulphate of zinc, as recommended by Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh. I was partly led to this course, too, by observing that I could not extirpate the diseased part without removing the lower papilla lacrymalis.

Having driven off by heat the water of crystallization of a few grains of the sulphate of zinc, and reduced the residuum to a fine powder, I mixed it with a little glycerine, so as to form a thick tenacious paste. Taking a little of this on the point of a bit of stick, I applied it over the scab and over the hard edges of the ulcer, and covered the part with dry lint.

Next day, I found that the application had given very little uneasiness; but that it had acted in destroying almost entirely the hard edges of the sore, and left the whole of its surface free from scab and of a florid healthy colour.

Two or three times subsequently I covered the edges again with the zinc paste; after which I left the wound to cicatrize, under the application of dry lint. I touched the conjunctiva and papillæ lacrymales occasionally with the four grains' solution of nitrate of silver, under which application they speedily freed themselves of inflammation.

On the 24th March, the patient called on me, with a firm cicatrice, of a healthy hue, in the site of his former disease.

29. *Treatment of Obstinate Granular Ophthalmia by the Local Application of a Solution of Chromic Acid.*—Dr. HARRISON recommends a solution consisting of equal parts of chromic acid and distilled water as a useful application to granular lids. It is applied by means of a camel's hair pencil, and is, he says, neither very painful nor followed by any great amount of reaction. Of fourteen cases treated by it, in eleven the result was satisfactory. The cauterizations were made at intervals of four, six, or eight days, and the time occupied in the cure was from four weeks to four months. Considerable prudence is required in the adoption of his mode of treatment, which is only recommended in obstinate cases.—*Archiv. Belg. de Med. Milit.*, Sept. 1858.

30. *Secale Cornutum in Disturbance of the Accommodation-power of the Eyes.*—When local hyperæmia is dependent upon a laxity of the walls of the bloodvessels, advantage attends, Professor WILLEBRAND, of Helsingfors, states, the employment of *secale cornutum*. He was induced to use it in these cases by the expectation that a means which acts so specifically upon the unstriped uterine muscular fibre must excite some power over the analogous structure of the arteries, and which its hæmostatic action proves, in fact, that it does. During his investigations he soon became struck with the fact that the heart of persons employing it soon underwent contraction in all its dimensions, and that even within the first twenty-four hours—a circumstance which he has frequently verified since. The first case that came under his care was an example of exophthalmos, accompanied with enlargement of the thyroid gland and hypertrophy of the heart. After a few weeks' use of the *secale*, the hypertrophy of the heart and thyroid, as well as the projection of the eye, much diminished. The patient, however, left off the medicine, and the exophthalmos returned worse than ever. Since that period he has employed the *secale* in various cases in which increasing contractility of the muscles of the bloodvessels or other tissues seemed to be indicated. It was found of especial advantage in a disturbed state of the accommodation-power of the eye, especially induced by over-taxing the organ on small objects with an insufficient amount of light. Children from some of the schools have furnished the author with many instances, and they have always been relieved by the *secale*. He relates a case in which impaired vision was always brought on by sewing or reading, and wherein the signs of some amount of chronic congestion were visible. Relief rapidly followed, and when the affection recurred some months after, it was as speedily relieved. He has also found the *secale* of great use in several cases of acute or chronic inflammation of the eye, and especially in blepharitis and the pustular conjunctivitis of children, the case proving much more rapid, and relapse being much less rare, than when local means alone are relied upon. No benefit has been derived from it in granular conjunctivitis and trachoma.

Proceeding upon the theory of its stimulant action upon the vaso-motoric nerves, the author has extended the employment of the *secale* to other local disturbances of the economy; and, as already observed, he has had frequent occasions of observing its transitory influence in hypertrophy of the heart, without having any reason to believe that it is of any permanent utility in affections of this organ, the heart always returning to its former size soon after the use of the *secale* has ceased. In many cases of both chronic and acute hyperæmia it has proved of great service, and especially in cases of galactorrhœa, and in indurations, tumefactions, and catarrhal affections of the uterus. Also, it has been very useful in enlarged spleen from intermittent fever, and when large doses of quinine have failed. It is especially indicated in the cases of relapsing intermittent depending upon enlarged spleen. In erysipelatous affections, it has often